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FCC MAIL ROOM

483 S. Niagara St.
Denver, CO 80224
303-394-3083
June 13, 1994

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
1919 M St., NW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: MM Docket 93-48

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing to provide the FCC with my comments regarding children's programming on television.

First of all, I would like to stress the importance of continued, generous federal funding for public television. Currently, the children's shows on public television are the only ones I allow my three-year-old son to watch unsupervised, and they comprise 95% of what he sees at all. From these programs, my son receives the messages that he (and every other person) is special ["Barney"; "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood"], that academics are important and fun ["Sesame Street"], and that we should respect each other's diversity ["The Puzzle Place"]. He has learned about trains ["Shining Time Station"], and that books are a wonderful and fascinating world containing amazing information and entertainment ["Reading Rainbow"]. Before looking to create other children's programming, the federal government should support the quality television that already exists on PBS with continued vigor.

Although there will always be a market for shows such as "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" and the like, these programs should not be the cornerstone of network or cable television programming for children. The deleterious effects of these violent programs on children are already widely recognized; my son's preschool has banned "Morphin" paraphernalia from the premises. Insipid cartoons are often no better. As with PBS, children's programming should be nonviolent in nature, and should contain some valuable or educational message. Of course there is nothing wrong with plain old entertainment, either - what about broadcasting concerts, puppet shows, circus performances and the like? Even when not billed as children's programs, these types of shows entertain and enliven.

Another avenue for quality programming for kids would be interactive shows. We are already seeing some of this type of programming for adults, such as game shows with audience participation. Why not create an avenue for kids' participation through companion booklets, workbooks, even games for television shows? (This idea would also create a marketing venue along with dolls and toys that would make it financially worthwhile for producers to develop new programs of this type.)

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While I certainly believe that parents have a responsibility to monitor their children's television viewing, it is reality that television sometimes fills our need to give our children something quiet to do while we attend to other things. During the day especially, there is a void in acceptable programming for children to watch. When creating new programming or broadening the time scope for existing shows, attention should be given to airing kids' programs during the afternoon hours when all that's available currently are talk shows (with the exception of "Oprah", these seem to focus almost exclusively on sexual topics) and soap operas. An all-children's network would certainly be a step in the right direction to providing an alternative to exclusively adult programming during the daytime.

Finally, I would like to commend the FCC for requesting the comments of parents on the issue of children's programming. In a wonderful democracy such as ours, it is only fitting that the people's comments should be sought by leaders in the television industry, and heard by both individuals involved in creating and administering programs as well as our elected officials.

Sincerely yours,



Suzanne Parker Gerson

cc: Rep. Patricia Schroeder
Sen. Hank Brown
Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell



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Secretary
FCC
Washington, DC 20554

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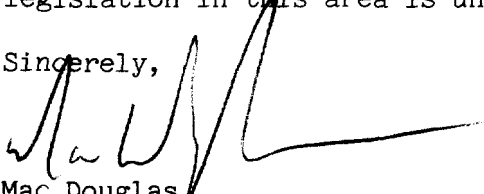
RE: MM Docket No. 93-48

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my belief that tighter children's television rules are not warranted. KVTV-TV provides an hour of educational programming on Sunday mornings; at 7:00 a.m. we air Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures which teaches children about the animal world, at 7:30 a.m. we air Captain Planet which teaches the importance of the World's ecology. We air all of the ABC Network Children's programming on Saturday mornings from 7:00 a.m.- Noon, which includes many educational 30 minute programs from ABC plus their Schoolhouse Rock series.

I feel the Children's Television Act of 1991 has effected a sufficient increase in children's programming and feel additional legislation in this area is unwarranted.

Sincerely,



Mac Douglas
General Manager

MD/pjh

CC: Sen. Phil Gramm
Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison
Rep. William "Mac" Thornberry
Rep. Larry Combest

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F.C.C.

"mm Docket 93-48"

Our family watches very little TV for quite a few very good reasons. My children are insulted by "Children's" programming - "My Little Pony," "Ninja Turtles," "Power Rangers". They are equally insulted by advertisers' attempts to get me to buy "junk food and junk tape."

While there is ~~some~~ appropriate "family" viewing on the large networks, we are forced to tape these programs, such as "Furthest Home Videos" so that we can edit the ads. We are appalled by the fact that the network would advertise a clearly "R" rated program coming up at 9 or 10 pm during a time slot and program when they are well aware of the fact that very young children are watching. Just two minutes of murder & sex during a family show is enough ^{reasons} to keep the TV off!

We thoroughly enjoy The Discovery Channel and PBS, and also family shows such as "Clarissa" on Nickelodeon, but here again, some of the ads become offensive.

While I firmly believe it is parents' responsibility to monitor the family TV - closely - I also believe that networks should be more responsible in

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program/advertising planning.

I don't know what part the F.C.C. can play in changing the sexist attitudes of advertisers, but as a parent of young girls I feel that the portrayal of women in ads on TV as simply beauty queens, and that of men as powerful muscle men is degrading to both sexes. Once again, however, it is clear that "money talks." I don't think the networks are concerned with what the advertisers say in the ads as long as they can cash the check.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our opinion.

The Weigel Family
6314 Vandemark Rd.
Medina OH 44256
216/447-2582

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Sentimental : JUN 1995

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It is with much concern
that we write you about
the m m Wocket 93-48.

Our children and families
are being bombarded by
programs which have an
influence on their lives which
is not pro-family.

The "ten commandments"
are obsolete and until our
Media, motion pictures, Church
and TV programming work together
we will see a continual

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increase in crime, divorce
etc.

As the family goes - so
goes the nation.

Please hear our concerns!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mr + Mrs Bill Stuckey